

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 198900

21

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06

TRSE-00 L-03 XMB-02 /046 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TCA/MA:REJOHE:EW

APPROVED BY EB/TCA/MA:RKBANK

MARAD:FRAITER/JHOEN

FMC:DWOOTEN (INFO)

EB/TCA/AVP:SKEITER (INFO)

EUR/WE:EBEIGEL (SUBS)

EUR/RPE:RBRESLER

EB/OT/TA:RMEYER (SUBS)

TREAS:OTPN: COULLETTE

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R 110228Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EWWT, EAIR, EFIN, IT, GATT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRIOR DEPOSIT PROGRAM: DISCRIMINATION
AFFECTING U.S. CARRIERS

REF: STATE 167677

1. THE FOLLOING IS A DEPARTMENT UPDATE OF EVENTS SINCE
AUGUST 3 REGARDING THE PRIOR DEPOSIT PROGRAM:

2. ON AUGUST 3, JIM HORN, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN EXPORT
LINES (AEL) CALLED THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF MARITIME
AFFAIRS (MA) TO COMPLAIN THAT THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
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PAGE 02 STATE 198900

U.S. CARRIERS UNDER THE PRIOR DEPOSIT PROGRAM HAD NOT

BEEN ELIMINATED BUT IN FACT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER, 1976,

3. BETWEEN AUGUST 3 AND AUGUST 6, THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION REGARDING THIS MATTER BETWEEN MA, MR. MICHELE COSENTINO, FIRST SECRETARY (COMMERCIAL), ITALIAN EMBASSY, AND MR. A. P. FERRONI, MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR SALES AND TRAFFIC FOR AEL IN GENOA, WHO WAS AT THIS TIME IN NEW YORK. DURING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH MR. COSENTINO, WHO WAS VISITING THE DEPARTMENT (MA), THE LATTER ACHIEVED A DIRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM

AS IT HAS AFFECTED U.S. CARRIERS. MR. COSENTINO HOPEFULLY WILL CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE ITALIAN OFFICIALS REGARDING HIS "MEETING OF THE MIND" WITH MR. FERRONI. MR. FERRONI HAS SINCE DEPARTED FOR GENOA AND POSSIBLY THENCE ROME AND INDICATED HE COULD TALK WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

4. ON AUGUST 9, A SEA-LAND OFFICIAL ALSO COMPLAINED TO MA REGARDING THE EXTENSION OF THE DECREE. THE OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD MA THAT A MEETING IS SCHEDULED IN ROME ON AUGUST 11 BETWEEN ALL US-FLAG LINES DOING BUSINESS IN ITALY AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

5. THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, IN SEPARATE LETTERS TO AEL AND SEA-LAND, HAS GIVEN THEM ASSURANCE THAT "NO NEW WAIVERS (UNDER P.R. L7) WILL BE GRANTED WHILE THE DISCRIMINATION PERSISTS AND THAT IF IT IS NOT PROMPTLY RESOLVED, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON OUTSTANDING GENERAL WAIVERS." SEE REFTEL FOR BACKGROUND.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY CABLE RESULTS OF AUGUST 11 MEETING AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. IN ADDITION, YOU MAY WISH TO REITERATE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS THAT MARAD IS PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO REVOKE THE EXIMBANK WAIVERS IF THE DISCRIMINATION IS NOT REMOVED IMMEDIATELY. ROBINSON

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